Problems Faced by the Cotton Farmers in Andhra Pradesh

2116. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the problem faced by cotton fanners in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the action taken to procure addition bales of cotton from Andhra Pradesh to enable the farmers to get remunerative prices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The cotton prices in Andhra Pradesh in the current year are lower compared to those of last year but these are ruling well above the minimum support levels. Similar trend exist in other States as well. To provide relief to cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh, the cotton corporation of India (CC1) has stepped up its purchases in the State. The CCI has purchased 1.26 lakh bales of cotton upto 5.3.1997 of the current cotton season, as against 0.91 lakh bales during the same period last year. During current cotton season, an export quota of 1.00 lakh bales of cotton has been released to the Cotton Federations of Andhra Pradesh, as against 0.20 lakh bales released during the previous year.

closure of Manipur Agriculture College at Imphul

2117. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will . *be* Minister of AGRICULTURE be plesed to state:

(a) whether the post-graduate classes in the Manipur Agriculture college are going to be closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the P.G Classes are closed whether any other faculty is proposed to be opened if so the benefits to be derived therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir, there is no proposal to close any Post Graduate courses being currently conducted a the college of Agriculture, Imphal.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of the answer given at (a).

Damage of Agricultural Land due to Erosion of the Ganga

2118. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAF: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of acres of agricultural land are being damaged by erosion of the Ganga in different parts of the country every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government have been requested to take effective steps to check erosion to save the life and property of the people; an I

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAU MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of average annual area damaged by floods including erosion in the Ganga Basin are enclosed statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Tie Ganga Flood control Commission has prepared 23 comprehensive - plans for flood management which contain anti-erosion measures for entre Ganga Basin. The Rashtriya Barh , .yog in its Report of 1980 had also made 207 long and short term recommend;, ions for tackling flood and erosion pro lem in the country. Both, the plans by the Ganga Flood Control Commissi in and the Report of the Barh Ayog have been sent to the State Government for implementation.

The States form ulate and implement the schemes as pe the inter-se priority fixed by them consi ering the quantum of